

# 2012 City of Mansfield Drinking Water Quality Report and 2013-2014 Calendar



# Water Quality Frequently Asked Questions

## What causes taste and odor in my drinking water?

Hot South Texas summer weather results in rapid algae growth in our surface water reservoirs. As the algae decay, they release taste and odor compounds. The Mansfield Water Treatment Plant replaced the anthracite coal filter media with GAC (Granular Activated Carbon) in the plant expansion of 1999. As a result, the tastes and odor nuisance was greatly reduced. However, there



are times of the year when the algae growths can exceed the GAC's ability to remove the tastes and odors completely. In as much as the problem of taste and odor may be apparent in the water, the water is safe to drink.

## Is my water safer with water purification devices?

Water from the City of Mansfield is safe to drink. We recognize it is your personal choice to purchase water purification devices. They have been known to cause problems in the quality of drinking water due to the lack of proper filter replacement. These devices are not tested or regulated by the state or federal government.

## Do we have hard water?

Hard water is defined by the amount of calcium and magnesium present in the water. Hard water has a relatively high level as compared to softwater which has a low level. Actually our water is not classified as hard or soft. It is medium (hard) and normally has a calcium carbonate hardness content ranging between 90 to 120 mg/l, or about 5 to 7 grains of hardness.

## Why does my water seem cloudy?

Water that is cloudy is often the result of air in the water. To verify the cloudy water is caused by air, fill a clear glass with water from your faucet. Watch the glass closely. If the glass gets clear from the

bottom to the top after a few minutes then there is air in the water. While the quality of the water is not affected by presence of air, it could be indicative of a problem in the distribution system. Excessive air in your water should be reported to the Water Department by calling (817) 473-8411 or (817) 477-2248.

## What is causing the staining of my plumbing fixtures?

Iron and manganese can cause a brownish orange staining on plumbing fixtures. The level of iron and manganese in our raw water is enough to cause staining problems. Since December 2003, Mansfield has been using Chlorine Dioxide to reduce iron and manganese.

# All drinking water may contain contaminants

When drinking water meets federal standards there may not be any health based benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

## Definitions and abbreviations

### NTU – Nephelometric Turbidity Units

This is used to measure water turbidity (clarity).

### MCL – Maximum Contaminant Level

The highest permissible level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

### MCLG – Maximum Contaminant

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which the Level Goal is no known or expected health risk. MCLG's allow a margin of safety.

### MRDL – Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

### mrem - millirems

Millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body).

### AL - ACTION LEVEL

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

### ppm – Parts Per Million

(Equivalent - A good comparison of one part per million is one packet of to milligrams per liter) artificial sweetener placed in 250 gallons of iced tea.

### ppb – Parts Per Billion

(Equivalent - An example of a part per billion is that same packet of to micrograms per liter) sweetener placed in an Olympic-size swimming pool of iced tea.

### ppt – Parts Per Trillion

Nanograms per liter.

### ppq – Parts per quadrillion

Picograms per liter.

### pCi/L – Picocuries Per Liter

This is a measure of radioactivity in water. One picocurie is the amount of radioactive material that produces 2.22 nuclear transformations per minute.

### TT - Treatment Technique

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

### MFL – Million fibers per liter

A measure of asbestos.



# 2012 Water Quality Report

## INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS <sup>1</sup>

Year	Substance	Avg	Min	Max	MCL	MCLG	Units	Source
2012	Antimony	<0.195	<0.195	<0.195	6.00	6.00	ppb	Discharge from petroleum refineries; Fire retardants; Ceramics; Electronics; Solder; Test addition.
2012	Arsenic	0.924	0.924	0.924	10.00	0.00	ppb	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production waste.
2012	Barium	0.0526	0.0526	0.0526	2.00	2.00	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
2012	Chromium	0.355	0.355	0.355	100.00	100.00	ppb	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
2012	Fluoride	0.72	0.72	0.72	4.00	4.00	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Runoff from fertilizer use.
2005	Gross beta emitters	3.60	3.60	3.60	50	0	pCi/L	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
2012	Nitrate	0.51	0.51	0.51	10.00	10.00	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Erosion of natural deposits.
2012	Selenium	<0.482	<0.482	<0.482	50.00	50.00	ppb	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
2012	Thallium	<0.004	<0.004	<0.004	2.00	0.50	ppb	Discharge from electronics, glass and leaching from ore-processing sites; Drug factories.
2011	Combined Radium	1.00	1.00	1.00	5.00	0.00	pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits.

## SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS INCLUDING PESTICIDES

Year	Contaminant	Avg	Min	Max	RMDL	MRDLG	Units	Source
2012	Atrazine	0.10	0.10	0.10	3.00	3.00	ppb	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.

## MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL

Year	Substance	Avg	Min	Max	MCL	MCLG	Units	Source
2012	Chloramines	2.61	1.10	3.90	4.00	<4.0	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.

## DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS

Year	Substance	Avg	Min	Max	MCL	Units	Source
2012	Total Haloacetic Acids	12.45	9.80	19.40	60.00	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2012	Total Trihalomethanes	32.40	26.90	42.20	80.00	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

## UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Year	Substance	Avg	Min	Max	Units	Source
2012	Chloroform	14.51	6.20	22.20	ppb	Byproduct from drinking water disinfection.
2012	Bromoform	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	ppb	Byproduct from drinking water disinfection.
2012	Bromodi-chloromethane	10.88	9.20	14.50	ppb	Byproduct from drinking water disinfection.
2012	Dibromo-chloromethane	6.82	5.50	9.60	ppb	Byproduct from drinking water disinfection.

## LEAD AND COPPER <sup>2</sup>

Year	Substance	90th percentile	# of sites exceeding action level	Action Level	Units	Source
2012	Lead	1.07	0.00	15.00	ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposit
2012	Copper	0.368	0.00	1.30	ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposit; Leaching from wood preservatives.

## SECONDARY CONSTITUENTS <sup>3</sup>

Year	Contaminant	Avg.	Min.	Max.	Secondary Limit	Units	Source
2012	Bicarbonate	104	104	104	NA	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2012	Chloride	15.50	15.50	15.50	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element; Used in water purification.
2012	Hardness as Ca/Mg	107	107	107	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium.
2012	pH	8.0	8.0	8.0	>7	units	Measure of corrosivity of water.
2012	Sodium	19.40	19.40	19.40	NA	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Byproduct of oil field activity.
2012	Sulfate	30.90	30.90	30.90	300.00	ppm	Naturally occurring; Common industrial byproduct; Byproduct of oil field activity.
2012	Total Alkalinity as CaCO3	104.00	104.00	104.00	NA	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2012	Total Dissolved Solids	193.00	193.00	193.00	1000.00	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.

## TOTAL & FECAL COLIFORMS – REPORTED MONTHLY TESTS FOUND NO TOTAL OR FECAL COLIFORMS <sup>4</sup>

## TURBIDITY <sup>5</sup>

Year	Substance Measurement	Highest Single	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Turbidity Limits	Units	Source
2012	Turbidity	0.33	100%	0.3	NTU	Soil runoff.

## TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON <sup>6</sup>

Year	Substance	Avg.	Min.	Max.	Unit of Measure	Source
2012	Source Water	8.64	6.88	10.3	ppm	Naturally present in the environment.
2012	Drinking Water	4.96	3.93	6.24	ppm	Naturally present in the environment.
2012	Removal Ratio	1.1	0.76	1.35	% Removal	NA

(1) The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/year. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles. (2) If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. This water supply is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. (3) Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or iron), which are often found in drinking water, can cause taste, color, and odor problems. The taste and odor constituents are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the State of Texas, not EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concerns. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water. (4) Total coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because they are easily detected in water samples and they are found in the digestive tract of warm-blooded animals. While coliforms are not disease producers, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are harder than many disease-causing organisms; therefore their absence from water is a good indication that the water is bacteriologically safe for human consumption. Fecal coliform bacteria, in particular E-Coli, are a portion of the coliform bacteria group originating in the intestinal tract of warm-blooded animals and are passed into the environment through feces. The presence of fecal coliform in drinking water may indicate recent contamination of the drinking water supply with fecal material. The following table indicates whether total coliform or fecal coliform bacteria were found in the monthly drinking water samples submitted for testing by your water supplier last year. (5) Turbidity has no health effects. However, Turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. (6) Total Organic Carbon (TOC) has no health effects. The disinfectant can combine with TOC to form disinfection byproducts. Disinfection is necessary to ensure that water does not have unacceptable levels of pathogens. Byproducts of disinfection include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA) which are reported elsewhere in this report.

# JULY 2013

On this episode of Water Cops, poor Mayor Cook was caught wet-handed watering his lawn between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

According to the City of Mansfield's Water Conservation Plan, the City of Mansfield has one year-round watering restriction: no watering your lawn with a sprinkler or irrigation system between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

This incident could have been avoided, however, if Mayor Cook watered by hand anytime with a watering can, handheld water hose, drip line or soaker hose.

Mayor Cook was not harmed during the making of this photo!

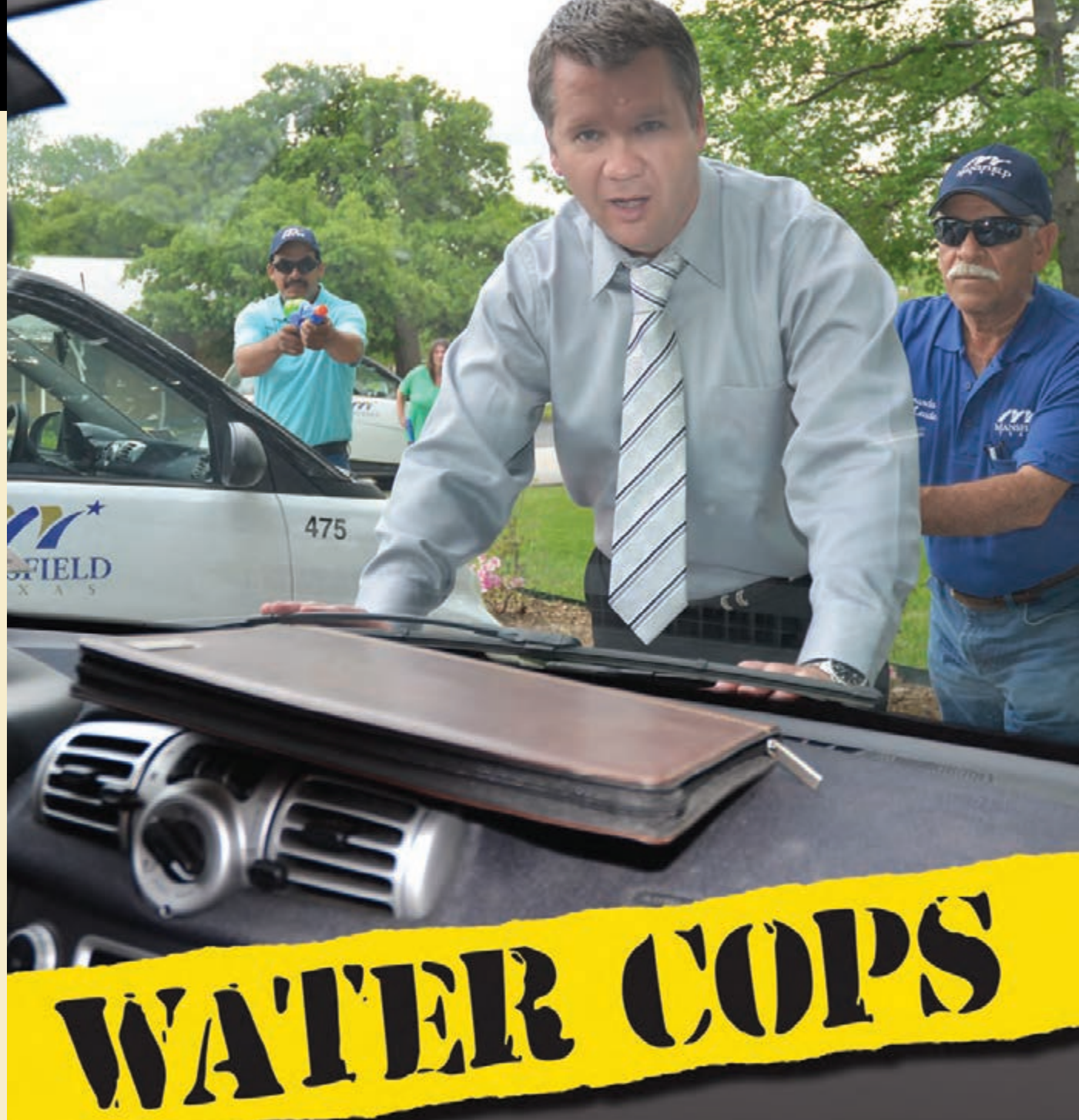
## Stage 1 Water Restrictions

Until regional water supplies recover from prolonged drought, all Mansfield customers are being asked to comply with the following watering schedule.

Non-Residential Customers	Residential Customers	Residential Customers
Apartments, businesses, medians, common areas, parks, etc.	Addresses ending with EVEN numbers (0, 2, 4, 6, 8)	Addresses ending with ODD numbers (1, 3, 5, 7, 9)
Tuesday and Friday	Wednesday and Saturday	Thursday and Sunday

### What time can I water?

The City of Mansfield has a year-round watering restriction. There is no watering allowed with a sprinkler or irrigation system between 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. However, residents can hand water anytime with a watering can, handheld water hose, drip line or soaker hose.



*In this photo (L to R): Ernesto Estrada, Grease Trap Inspector; Sherry Harden-Meter Reader Supervisor; David L. Cook, Mayor; Bernardo Cervantes-Crew Leader*

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# AUGUST 2013

## It Takes a Village

You might be surprised to learn what it takes to keep safe, clean, delicious drinking water at your tap. You might also be surprised to learn what it takes to remove it from Mansfield when you're finished with it.

More than 50 employees operate and maintain the City of Mansfield's drinking water treatment plant, distribution system and sewer collections system. These individuals work very hard to make sure life as you know it continues to exist. What would life be like if a safe, sufficient supply of drinking water were no longer available at the twist of a faucet? What would you do if you couldn't flush a toilet?



Keep Up With The Crewdashians by visiting [www.mansfield-tx.gov/departments/utilities](http://www.mansfield-tx.gov/departments/utilities)



keeping up  
with  
the  
Crewdashians

# AUGUST

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Have you ever wondered why city water costs so much? I mean \$2.89 for a billing unit of water and \$2.57 for a billing unit of sewer...are you kidding me?

A billing unit of water, or sewer for that matter, is equal to 1,000 gallons. That's 18, 55-gallon drums...give or take. One thousand gallons of water weighs 8,340 pounds (more than four tons).

For \$2.89 the city's water department will take 1,000 gallons of water from Cedar Creek Lake, move it all the way to Mansfield, clean it so it meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water requirements, pump it out to the towers around town and make sure it gets to you with enough pressure to take that shower you love so much.

The same volume of drinking water purchased at a local convenience store in nice little one liter plastic containers would cost you \$7,532.15! And, you have to go pick it up. That's right; the alternative to city water is more than 2,600 times MORE expensive.

This story doesn't end with the delivery of water to your home. Getting water to your home is just half of the process. For just \$2.57, the city will take that water back from you when you're done with it. And, it doesn't look like drinking water when you give it back.

When you flush a toilet, take a shower or rinse food waste down the drain it travels all the way to I-30

## the Real Housewives OF UTILITY BILLING



*In this photo (L to R): Shelia Geron, Records Management Clerk; Brandy Fernandez, Cashier; Utility Billing Department: De'Andra Kirk, Billing Clerk; Janet Green, Receptionist; Rita Hudson, Utility Billing Supervisor; Nelda Thompson, Senior Billing Clerk; Lynn Brown, Customer Service; Paula Phillip, Cashier; Arianne Shipley, Education Specialist; Susana Marin, Assistant City Secretary*

and Loop 12. Once it arrives at the regional waste water treatment plant it is cleaned until it meets or exceeds all state and federal discharge requirements. This is an amazing feat of engineering!

What would the alternative to city sewer service be? What would you do with 1,000 gallons of raw sewage? You could store it in the 18, 55-gallon drums, but would you want to?

Where would you dispose of it? This alternative seems even less attractive when you consider the average home in Mansfield uses about 10,000 gallons of water per month. That's a lot of waste to dispose of.

So, the next time you open your water bill ask yourself, "Is it really that expensive?"



# SEPTEMBER

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## Treatment Tribe (Red)

On a daily basis, water treatment plant operators use math, chemistry, biology and even physics. They operate and maintain complex equipment such as, but not limited to, an on-site sodium hypochlorite generation system, microfiltration membrane filtration units, a wide range of analytical laboratory equipment and an ultraviolet advanced oxidation system.

*Robby Isbell, Jimmy Moore, Regina Newman, Jaime Montiel, Ray Chapa, Brad Collins*

## Distribution Tribe (Green)

Every month, without fail, the distribution team reads more than 19,000 water meters, maintains more than 287 miles of drinking water distribution pipe and ensures thousands of valves and fire hydrants are working properly. These individuals are on the job 24 hours a day.

*Adam Carter, Sherry Harden, Hunter Moore, Teresa Foote, Derek Wells, Lance Isbell*

## Collections Tribe (Yellow)

The collections team is responsible for making sure the stuff you flush, wash or rinse down the drain stays there! To do so they must maintain more than 350 miles of sanitary sewer pipe, more than a dozen sewer lift stations and hundreds of grease/grit traps. This also requires an 'around-the-clock' commitment. It's not a glamorous job, but it's one we simply cannot live without.

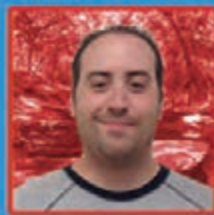
*Brad Blan, AJ Platter, Arnaldo Ramirez, Aaron Cleveland, Cyndi Smith, Ernesto Estrada*



All utility department employees are required to have state-issued licenses. The state requires these individuals to complete hundreds of hours of classroom training and acquire years of on-the-job training.



A license is only issued after he or she has passed a state exam. They must also complete continuing education credits every year in order to maintain their licenses and stay apprised of the most current regulatory and technical updates.







## The Mud Ducks

Jesse Fernandez (top left), John Wheeler (top right), Clint Harvey (bottom left) and Jeff Price (bottom right) have each been with the City of Mansfield for more than 15 years. In fact, Jesse has been here for almost 27 years! These are a few of the gentlemen that make our city such a great place to visit, live and work.

## Mansfield Matter to Me

Jeff Price (bottom right) was named the Utility Division's Employee of the Year in 2012. Here's what Jeff had to say about why Mansfield matters to him.

## What do I like about my job?

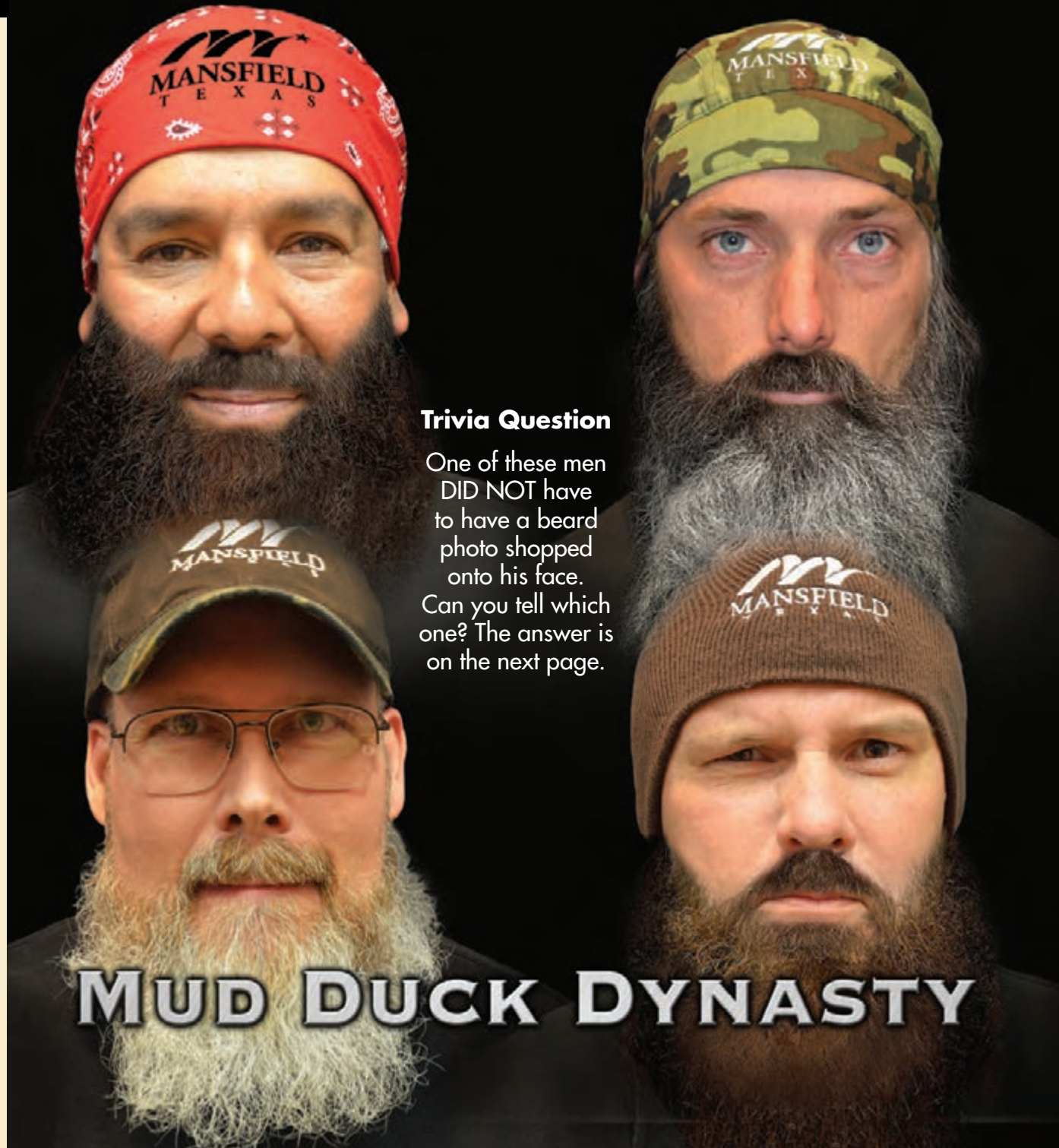
I've been living my childhood dream with this job! I grew up playing with Tonka trucks and tractors. Now, I'm driving the real deal! I couldn't imagine a better job. To this day, there is still the chance that I will return home covered, head to toe, in mud after a water main break. The most enjoyable part of my job, however, is my coworkers. Since Mansfield is not too big, I can build quality relationships with everyone I work with.

## What do I like about Mansfield?

I like that Mansfield has retained the small town feel I grew up with, all while becoming a city that has a little bit of everything. I like that there is a strong sense of community among the residents and businesses of Mansfield. Being a part of the second Leadership Mansfield class helped me to see how the residents and businesses come together for the greater good of this community.

## Why does Mansfield Matter to me?

Mansfield matters to me simply because it is home. I am a third-generation Mansfield resident and my wife and I can't imagine a better place to raise our two girls.



## Trivia Question

One of these men DID NOT have to have a beard photo shopped onto his face. Can you tell which one? The answer is on the next page.

# MUD DUCK DYNASTY



# NOVEMBER

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## Keep Mansfield Beautiful

The Keep Mansfield Beautiful Commission (KMBC) is a volunteer board which is comprised of Mansfield residents who engage, educate and empower other community members to take responsibility for creating a clean and beautiful city. This is accomplished through litter abatement, waste reduction recycling and community beautification. The goal is to improve the health and prosperity of this great city.

KMBC participates in a number of city-wide events such as the In The City 5K & Cleanup, Texas SmartScape Classes, Creekside Cleanup & Cookout, Adopt-A-Street Program, Beautification Day Collections, Household Hazardous Waste Collections and a variety of festivals and parades.

## Volunteer Opportunities

There are many opportunities to volunteer and help **Keep Mansfield Beautiful!** To learn more about volunteer opportunities or how to become an Honorary Member of KMBC visit: [www.keeptomansfieldbeautiful.com](http://www.keeptomansfieldbeautiful.com)



Keep  
Mansfield  
Beautiful

# The VOLUNTEERETTE



*In this photo: Kimberly Stratman-Keep Mansfield Beautiful Board Member; Arnolito Ramirez, Tradesman-Wastewater; Ray Chapa, Class B Water Operator; Bernardo Cervantes, Utility Technician-Hydrant & Valve; Jeff Price, Tradesman - Hydrant & Valve; Ricky Farley, Tradesman - Hydrant & Valve; Brad Blan, Tradesman -Wastewater; Lance Isbell, Utility Technician-Hydrant & Valve; Adam Carter, Meter Technician; David Brister, Meter Reader; Hunter Moore, Water Operator; John Wheeler, Water Distribution Crew Leader; Jaime Montiel, Instrumentation Technician; Brad Collins, Class B Water Operator; Chase Tripp, Meter Reader; Ernesto Estrada, Grease Trap Inspector; Robby Isbell, Plant Manager; Derek Wells, Utility Technician-Water Distribution; Aaron Cleveland, Tradesman- Wastewater; Jesse Fernandez, Field Operations Manager; H2Owen, Water Utility Department Mascot*





## The Kitchen

The Bud Ervin Water Treatment Plant (BEWTP) has a state-of-the-art drinking water quality laboratory and is a nationally accredited bacteriological laboratory. Every day, hundreds of manual samples are analyzed to make sure that the water YOU see at the tap is safe and refreshing.

## The Chef

John (JD) Woodworth is the Laboratory Supervisor of the BEWTP Lab. He's not as scary in person as he appears in the picture.

## The Menu

### Single Servings

- Hydrogen – the chef recommends two individual servings of this airy dish.
- Oxygen – when sampled in the right portions, this dish is sure to have you on cloud nine.

### Combination Platters

- Dihydrogen Monoxide – two portions of hydrogen and one portion of oxygen (also known as **water**).

# JD's Kitchen



*In this photo: John (JD) Woodworth*



# JANUARY

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## Say “NO” to F.O.G. Help Dave protect your sewer system

Fats, Oil & Grease, otherwise known as F.O.G., comes from the meat scraps, cooking oil, shortening, lard, butter & margarine, gravy, mayonnaise, salad dressing and sour cream that you (well, we) put down the drain. And, those aren't the only culprits.

When poured down the kitchen drain, F.O.G. accumulates inside sewer pipes. It builds up, restricting flow in the pipe, and can cause untreated wastewater to back up into homes and businesses. Manholes can overflow into streets, yards, parks, and storm drains causing contamination of local bodies of water. We get our drinking water from lakes.

Exposure to untreated wastewater is a public health hazard. We **KNOW** you don't want to see it again after you've given it to us. So, do everyone a favor and follow these simple tips:

### The Dos of Dealing With F.O.G.

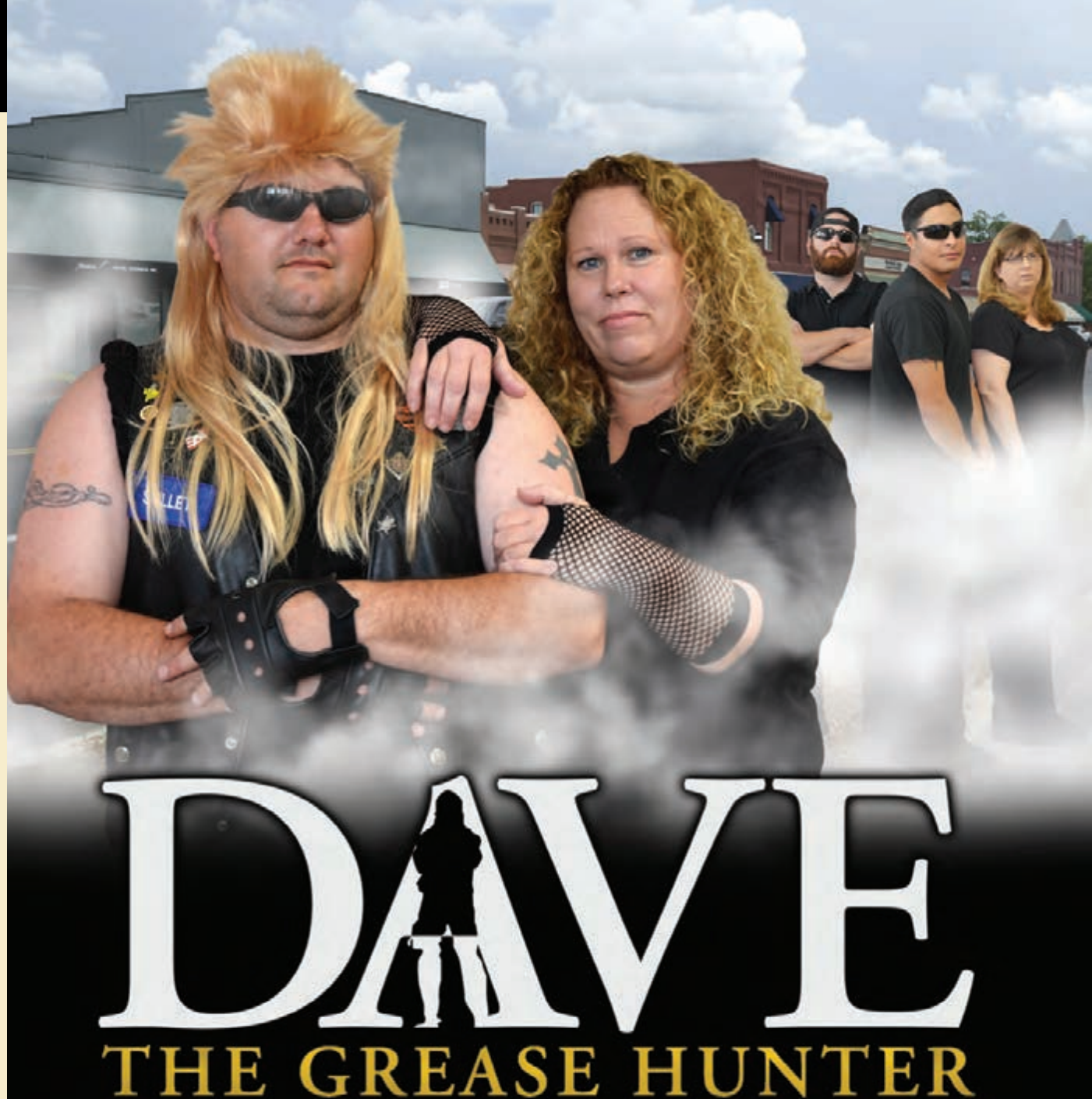
**DO** – Remove F.O.G. from dishes, pans, fryers and griddles. Cool first, and then skim. Scrape and wipe off excess F.O.G.

**DO** – Put F.O.G. in a tightly sealed container.

**DO** – Scrape food scraps from dishes into trash cans and garbage bags, and then dispose of trash properly. Avoid putting it down your garbage disposal. Composting is another alternative.

**DO** – Prewash dishes and pans with cold water before putting them in the dishwasher.

The City of Mansfield has a FREE year-round collection point for F.O.G. Please call 817-477-2248 to set up a drop-off appointment.



*In this photo: David Brister, Utility Inspector-Water Distribution; Brenda Isbell, Inventory Clerk; Adam Carter, Tradesman-Water Distribution; Arnoldo Ramirez, Tradesman-Wastewater; Cyndi Smith, Data Entry Clerk*



# FEBRUARY

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Getting **CLEAN WATER** to you is a **DIRTY JOB**

When you think about water, you probably think about all of the things that you do with it.

Ironically, getting clean, refreshing drinking water to your home or business is a **DIRTY JOB**. Here are just a few of the jobs that utility department employees do...so you don't have to:

**Grease Trap Inspector** – Sure, the food smells great at our local restaurants. But the grease trap is another story. Grease and grit traps must be inspected regularly to make sure that F.O.G. isn't entering and clogging the sewer system. You can't do this job from a desk. The only way to know whether a trap is in need of servicing is to open it up and get your hands dirty.

**Meter Reader** – The staff members that read water meters are some of the hardest working people in the City. They are outside all day, reaching into meter boxes containing stagnant water, mud, bugs, snakes and all sorts of creepy crawlies. Doing it once is bad enough, but they do it more than 20,000 times every month!

**Distribution Crew Member** – When a water main line springs a leak, these are the employees that spring into action. It's a **DIRTY JOB**, for sure. They are almost always covered in mud and almost never go home dry.

**Sewer Crew Member** – The title alone should give you some idea of what these employees work in every day. When you put something down the drain that really shouldn't go there, they get it out. When a sewer line breaks...well, let's just say they get down in it so you don't get it back.

Sound glamorous? Want to become a MUD DUCK? Check for job openings at [www.mansfield-tx.gov/departments/hr/jobs.php](http://www.mansfield-tx.gov/departments/hr/jobs.php)

Now, QUACK like a **MUD DUCK!**



*In this photo: Steve Olinski*





# APRIL 2014

## Spring is in the Air!

### Tips for watering your lawn

- Check the City website ([www.mansfield-tx.gov](http://www.mansfield-tx.gov)) to see whether or not we are in a drought stage. If so, there are specific days you are allowed to water.
- Never water between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. This is a permanent watering restriction.
- Check your irrigation system for leaks and make repairs if needed.
- Only water when needed.
- Avoid watering on windy days.
- Use drip irrigation if possible.
- Install a rain and freeze sensor. Then, make sure you use it.
- Maintain 2-3 inches of mulch in your flower beds. This reduces evaporation and provides nutrients to the soil when it decays.

### Backflow Prevention

- All landscape irrigation systems are required to have a backflow prevention device.
- This device is designed to keep potentially harmful contaminants OUT of your drinking water.
- This device must be tested AT LEAST annually.

### Let us help

- We can test your backflow device for you.
- We can help you set your irrigation system controller.
- We can run through your irrigation system with you.
- We can help you find a state-licensed professional to help with repairs you can't do yourself.
- We offer classes regularly that will help you learn about landscape irrigation and water conservation.

Call 817-477-2248 ext 2002 to receive a current list of public education classes and reserve your seat.



*In this photo (L to R): Forrest Maybugh, Water Operator; Keith Hawes, Water Demand Manager; David Moulton, Pretreatment Coordinator*



[illegible]

# APRIL

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20  Easter Sunday	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28  City Council Meeting @ 7 pm	29	30			
					MARCH	MAY
					Calendar grid for March	Calendar grid for May

# MAY 2014

## The Choice Between Tap Water & Bottled Water

On the day this was written, the price of a gallon of gas was about \$3.50. Who knows what it will cost when you read this? Would you be willing to pay \$9,100 for a gallon of gas?

On the day this was written, the price of a gallon of milk was about \$2.79. Would you be willing to pay \$7,254 for a gallon of milk?

If you answered NO to either of the above questions, you're not Donald Trump. And, you are well on your way to answering the next question correctly.

What if I told you a single billing unit of water (1,000 gallons) was 2,600 times LESS expensive than its alternative? Would that get your attention?

A single billing unit of water is just \$2.89. The equivalent volume of bottled water, purchased in 1 liter bottles from a local convenience store, would cost \$7,532.15. That's an expensive shower!

1,000 gallons of tap water, consumed from a reusable bottle, would keep 6,400, 20-ounce plastic bottles out of the landfill. Many of the plastic bottles intended for disposal in the landfill end up on roadways or in streams, creeks or lakes.

***Now go out there and make the smart choice!***



*In this photo (L to R): Chase Tripp, Meter Reader; Kayla Cardinale, Meter Reader; J.R. Zavala (and cat), Chief Operator; Justin Bradford, Meter Technician*





# JUNE 2014

## Don't Flush Your Fortune Down the Drain

### Tips for saving water around the house:

- Consider installing low-flow shower heads.
- Consider installing a high-efficiency toilet(s).
- Turn off the water when you brush your teeth, shave or wash your hands.
- Only run the dishwasher or washing machine when you have a full load.
- Check your toilets, sinks, bathtubs and faucets for leaks.

- Call 817-477-2248 ext 2002 to ask about Fix a Leak Week.

### Tips for saving water outdoors:

- Schedule an irrigation system audit.
- Call 817-477-2248 ext 2002 to schedule a free audit with a state licensed irrigator.
- Consider retrofitting your landscape irrigation system with drip or high-efficiency sprays and nozzles.
- Don't water your lawn between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. This is when evaporation is at its highest.
- Plant drought tolerant plants in order to reduce the amount of water needed.
- Use mulch in your flower beds.

- Call 817-477-2248 ext 2002 and ask about FREE mulch.



*In this photo (L to R): Brad Blan, Tradesman-Sewer Crew; Ricky Farley, Tradesman-Hydrant & Valve; Joe Richey, Maintenance Technician; Matt Daugherty, Wastewater Crew Leader; Jimmy Moore, Maintenance Supervisor/Budget Officer*



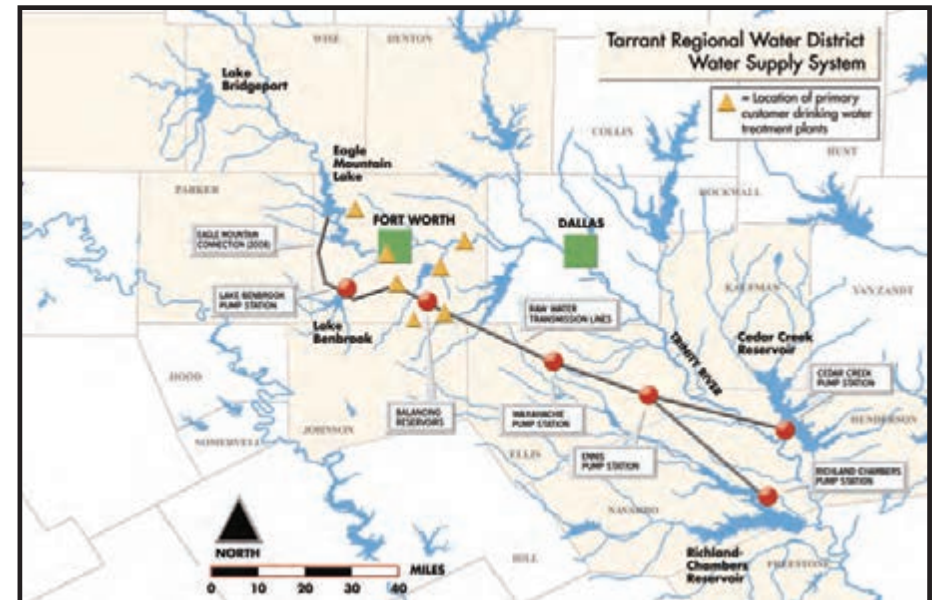
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## Where does our water come from?

Mansfield is a member of the Tarrant Regional Water District along with Fort Worth, Arlington, Benbrook and Trinity River Authority. TRWD primarily pumps water from Cedar Creek and Richland Chambers reservoirs in east Texas. The TRWD can also supply water from the Benbrook reservoir.

Our drinking water is obtained from surface water sources such as Benbrook Lake, Richland Chambers Reservoir and Cedar Creek Reservoir. Lakes and reservoirs collect rainfall and runoff. The area that drains



## Health information for special populations

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Among those who could be at risk from infections: infants, some elderly or Immuno-compromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer, those who have undergone organ transplants, those who are undergoing treatment with steroids and people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders. You should seek advice about drinking water from your health provider. Additional guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

into a lake or reservoir is called a drainage basin. The drainage basins usually include creeks and rivers that run into the lake. The lake, as well as the creeks and rivers, are impacted by the runoff from the land use in the drainage basin.

The sources of drinking water, tap water and bottled water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water before treatment include: microbes, inorganic contaminants, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive contaminants, and organic chemical contaminants.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) completed a Source Water Susceptibility Awareness (SWSA) study in 2009. The study lists the possible sources of contamination and the level of their severity, for each reservoir. For information about the SWSA study, contact TCEQ at 512-239-4691.

Important Contact Information			
Bud Ervin Water Treatment Plant	817-477-2248		
Billing Information	817-276-4200	Water Utility Field Office	
City Hall	817-276-4200	Distribution Issues	817-473-8411
Water Treatment Plant:		Sewer System Issues	817-473-8411
Backflow Prevention Device Testing	817-477-2248 ext 2002	Grease Trap Inspection	817-473-8411
Irrigation System Issues	817-477-2248 ext 2002	Water Emergencies-After Hours	817-473-8411
Industrial Pretreatment	817-477-2248 ext 2003		
Water Quality Questions	817-477-2248 ext 2013	Environmental Services Department	
Hydration Station Reservation	817-477-2248 ext 2026	Drainage Issues	817-276-4240
Volunteer Program-Keep Mansfield Beautiful	817-477-2248 ext 2026	Trash Collection	817-276-4240
Water Utility Class Registration	817-477-2248 ext 2026	Recycling Questions	817-276-4240